# On the Go Newsletter

September 2010

# **Iowa Commission on Latino Affairs**

Nomination Deadline for Mary Campos Award Extended

The lowa Commission on Latino Affairs would like to extend the nomination deadline for the Mary Campos Award, which is an award created in 2006 by the Commission to indentify a private or non-profit organization that has made significant contributions through internal changes or outreach efforts to serve the Latino community above and beyond what is considered the norm to improve the quality of life of the lowa Latino community.

The award will be presented, on October 16, 2010 at the <u>lowa Latino Conference</u> held in lowa City, along with the Robert D. Ray lowa Latino Ambassador Award at the 12th Annual Strengthening and Valuing Latina/o Communities in lowa Conference (aka the lowa Latino Conference).

#### **Nomination Form:**

To nominate an outstanding lowan who has improved the lives of the Latino community, please fill out the <u>nomination form</u>. All entries must be typed and submitted electronically by **Friday**, **September 24**, **2010**. Any person or group may submit a nomination.

#### Questions:

If you have any questions, contact Melissa Esquivel, Executive Officer of Latino Affairs at 515-281-4080 or Melissa.esquivel@iowa.gov.

#### **Community Announcements & Services**

Eloy Barragan: Choreographer, Dancer, Teacher

#### News

- Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis: Labor Day Address
- On the Lake Shore Limited
- Fighting Back Against Copycat Immigration Laws Like Arizona
- Unauthorized Immigrants and Their U.S.-Born Children
- Dream vs. Reality: An Analysis of Potential DREAM Act Beneficiaries
- America's Future: Latino Child Well-Being in Numbers and Trends

#### **Data Resources**

- Latinos in Iowa: 2010 Data Sheet
- New Demographic Realities: Iowa

#### **Flood Resources**

Red Cross Response

# Film Series / Discussions on Immigration Trinity United Methodist, 8th &College, Des Moines 4 PM every fourth Sunday, starting 8/22/10

The faith community of Trinity United Methodist/Las Americas Comunidad de Fe would like to help widen and deepen the discussion of immigration issues by inviting you to a series of films on a variety of immigration issues, to be held the fourth Sunday of each month, followed by a shared meal and discussion. Offerings will include such films as In the Shadow of the Raid (Postville aftermath and issues); Made in LA (undocumented worker issues); Dying to Live (border crossing realities); Which Way Home (children seeking to reach the US to join parents); and Siete Soles. We especially hope to bring together our immigrant community with the sincere and caring people we know whose energies have been directed to other social issues and who have doubts or uncertainties about immigration. Please come prepared to share and deepen your awareness and understanding of immigration issues and let us form bonds with each other in the shared search for healing and change in our immigration policy. For more information please call Trinity (288-4056) or Las Americas (280-8426).

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## **Upcoming Community Events**

- 2010 Protecting Our Children Conference, September 8-10
- A Safe Path to Keeping Your Home: Avoiding Foreclosure Scams! Accessing Help! September 9
- Neighborhood Fall Festival: A Multicultural Celebration September 11
- Immigration Reform 101 Webinar, September 14
- Women You Know, Women You Want to Meet, September 15
- <u>LULAC Council 10 51st Annual Celebration</u>
   Mexican Independence Fiesta September 18
- "Immigration and Community: Working Toward a Biblical Perspective", September 25
- Unity International Fest September 26
- Immigration Forum at DMACC Urban Campus, October 5
- 12th Iowa Latino Conference, October 15-16
- 2010 Mosaic Diversity Conference, October 18
- "On the Issues" Event, October 18
- <u>Building Balance Youth Empowerment</u>
   <u>Conference</u>, October 19-20
- <u>Iowa Culture and Language Conference</u>, November 1-3
- Different Colors of Violence Conference XI, December 16-17

# "Immigration and Community: Working Toward a Biblical Perspective" Conference at Dordt College

This very exciting conference will take place in Sioux Center on Saturday, September 25 from 9am - 3pm. The goal is to engage members of the academic community at Dordt College, Northwestern College and other area public and private schools, community, civic and religious leaders and interested community members in a day of learning about immigration.

The cost is only \$10, including registration, refreshments, noon meal and a book of your choice about immigration. There will be several opportunities for questions and discussion throughout the day.

You can register online or at the door.

# Civil Rights Outreach to the Latino Community

The increase understanding of state and federal fair civil rights laws within the Latino/a community, AmeriCorps VISTA members from the Iowa Civil Rights Commission will be together with the Iowa Immigration Education Coalition at two upcoming events. Attendees will be able to take a quiz on immigration myths and learn how to identify and report national origin discrimination.

The Commission believes the outreach and education efforts provide a means to educate citizens on laws, and reach out to businesses or landlords. According to Ralph Rosenberg, Director of the Commission, "Recently, the Commission used the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to teach lowans about the ADA and how to comply with the ADA. The 45th anniversary of the lowa Civil Rights Act provides a good opportunity to further other education and outreach efforts, which complement our enforcement powers, but also prevent discrimination from ever occurring the first time. Education all lowans on how to avoid current or future violations— is always timely."

VISTA members will be at lowa's Latino Heritage Festival in Des Moines on September 4th and 5th. They will then attend the Strengthening Latino/a Communities Conference on October 15th—16th in Iowa City. The Iowa Civil Rights Act, originally passed in 1965, protects all Iowans from discrimination based on list of protected characteristics including national origin, race, sex, physical disability, mental disability, religion, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Since 2006, the Commission has collaborated with local, state, and federal governments and the private sector to offer VISTA members to assist in outreach and education efforts and capacity building of local groups.

Any lowan who has questions about discrimination complaint may contact the lowa Civil Rights Commission at 1-800-457-4416 or visit its <u>website</u>. All services provided by the commission are free and confidential.

#### Mes De La Herencia Hispana

El mes de la Herencia Hispana comienza del 15 de Septiembre al 15 de Octubre, celebrando la Independencia de cinco paises Latino-Americanos —Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Adicionalmente, Mexico declaró su independencia en Septiembre 16, y Chile en Septiembre 18.

En Estados Unidos el término Hispano, definido de acuerdo al Censo de los Estados Unidos, se refiere a las personas que hablan Español en los Estados Unidos de cualquier raza. De acuerdo al Censo personas de origen Español/Latino/Hispano se pudieran identificar a sí mismas como Mexicanas, Puerto Riqueñas, Cubanas, u "other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino." Más de 35 milliones de personas se identificaron como Hispanos or Latinos.

El Centro Multicultural del Colegio de Indian Hills, invita a todas las personas de países de Habla Hispana a participar en su celebración de la Herencia Hispana que se celebrará el Sábado <u>2 de Octubre</u> en el Ottumwa Campus.

Si usted quiere traer un platillo típico de su pais, bailar danzas regionales/folklóricas ó sabe hacer trajes típicos ó quiere modelar uno, enseñar como hacer piñatas, etc. favor de contactarse con la patrocinadora del Club Multicultural lo más pronto posible.

Para mas informacion llama al Norma Rosales 641 683 5755.

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#### U.S. Council on Latino Affairs: Call to Action

On August 12, 2010 the USCLA held a meeting in Chicago, Illinois in conjunction with the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute (USHLI) gala dinner keynoted by former HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros. Our events in Chicago were dominated by the unfortunate and inaccurate "news frame" of Latinos present in the coverage of the contentious immigration debate by mainstream media, cable news programs, and local news.

As we celebrate the 47th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. and as we approach the 9th anniversary of the Sept. 11th tragedies in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, the USCLA wishes to issue a challenge to national Latino public service organizations and Hispanic media outlets.

As we pledge allegiance to our country: "One nation, Under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all", it is now incumbent upon us in the Latino community to actively work to change the narrative, challenge the stereotypes, and present the facts regarding our positive contributions and service to the United States of America.

For example, contrary to the perception that is amplified by the news media, the immigration debate is not exclusive to the Hispanic community and only a fraction of the Latino population is undocumented. Less than 100 years ago, "HELP WANTED: No Irish Need Apply" signs were posted outside shops and businesses in our major cities.

FBI crime statistics show that most major U.S. cities close to the Mexican border are among the safest in the country. The US Census reveals that the Latino population is among the fastest growing demographic in our country which translates directly into increased federal dollars, representation in Congress, and electoral college votes for many states. Latinos are serving our armed forces with distinction and many have paid the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq and Afghanistan for our country. As we approach Sept. 11th, our Hispanic soldiers who have lost their lives should be profiled and recognized for their service to our nation. Likewise, our Latino veterans should be featured and thanked for their service on Veteran's Day.

As our nation continues to struggle economically, our accomplishments in entrepreneurship, purchasing power, and, yes, the tax revenues provided by Latinos are helping fuel the economic recovery. International trade with Central and South America is also crucial to repair our nation's trade imbalance.

In conclusion, we must endeavor to truthfully tell our own story lest we be overshadowed by fear, myths and stereotypes in the coming months, years, and decades ahead. It is up to all of us. Please join our efforts to change the image of Hispanics in the United States. Si Se Puede!

The United States Council on Latino Affairs is composed by fellow directors of Latino Affairs commissions and agencies representing different states of the Union. The purpose of the USCLA is to foster camaraderie and friendship among the fellows, to promote Latino community priorities at the national level, and identify potential best practices for the agencies and programs each fellow represents.

# ACLU Celebration to Explore and Honor Civil Liberties in Iowa

Join the ACLU of Iowa Saturday, October 9 for a day-long conference on the state of civil liberties in Iowa with an optional celebration dinner to follow.

The 75th anniversary celebration will take place at The Meadows in Altoona, near Des Moines. It includes a conference with six workshops and a luncheon keynote speaker, Robert Sheer, long-time journalist and public radio commentator. The evening banquet speaker is Jonathan Turley, law professor at George Washington University, who is a television legal expert and a House and Senate witness on constitutional and statutory issues.

Among the workshop speakers are John and Mary Beth Tinker, who were the plaintiffs in the landmark 1969 U.S. Supreme Court student Vietnam War black armband protest. Other workshops address minority incarceration, immigration, the media, religious freedom and national security, and marriage equality.

Rates for the conference start at \$20 (student) to \$40 (adult) if registered by October 4 (ticket to a fund-raising leadership reception and banquet not included). Banquet tickets are \$30 (student) and \$60 (adult) if registered by October 4 (conference and fund-raising leadership reception not included). For complete program information and registration visit www.aclu-ia.org/about/coming2010.aspx.

# A SAFE PATH TO KEEPING YOUR HOME: Avoiding Foreclosure Scams! Accessing Help! A FREE event for those facing possible home foreclosure September 9, 2010 If you or someone you know is worried about losing a home to foreclosure, there is hope! Attend this free event to learn about the lowa Mortgage Help process and how to avoid foreclosure scams. Homeowners in need of assistance will have full access to lowa Mortgage Help housing counselors and lowa Legal Aid attorneys to discuss their situation Homeowners should bring the following items to begin accessing help immediately: List of monthly expenses Last 2 pay stubs or other proof of income 2 most recent months of bank statements Your most recent statement from your lender and other letters or notices Iowa Mortgage Help is a free-state sponsored program providing foreclosure prevention assistance to homeowners in need. **East Des Moines Event Center** 2550 E. Euclid Avenue (next to Hy-Vee) **Des Moines** 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

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515-278-1415

HELP.COM



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Iowa Office of Latino Affairs: On the Go newsletter is sent monthly with up-to-date information on the agency, activities and upcoming events to keep our constituents informed. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

The Office of Latino Affairs is legislatively mandated to promote and advocate for lowa Latinos.

#### Other Resources

- Guide to Scholarships for New Americans and Minorities
- Getting School Ready in Iowa Guide
- Addressing Adolescent Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs in Mexico: Challenges and Opportunities
- Barriers to Safe Motherhood in Mexico
- Gear Up Iowa
- **HIV Directory of Services**
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: Multicultural Room
- **ELL Information Center**

## **Reach Out To Dropouts Walk**

On Saturday, September 25, 2010, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, Des Moines Public Schools, United Way of Central Iowa and corporate sponsor Aviva USA are holding the second-annual Reach Out to Dropouts day in Des Moines -- a school and community effort to re-enroll students who did not return to high school for the 2010-11 school year.

United Way seeks 126 community volunteers to join school district staff as "Door-to Door Walkers." Teams will be led by a School District Team Leader and include 2-3 community volunteers. Each team will be assigned to 8-12 home visits. During visits your team will obtain information about why a student has not returned to school and provide resource information to help that student re-enroll. One hour of training is required of all volunteers and a variety of times and dates are available to fit almost any schedule. Click here to volunteer.

We hope to see you walking during the Reach Out to Dropouts event. Again thank you for your current work to support the education in our community!

# Male Responsibility Project (MRP)



WILLER This project is a great opportunity to educate young males on becoming responsible adults. The Male Responsibility Project is an evidence based program that seeks to motivate, empower, and equip young males with the tools to avoid unplanned fatherhood.

This is a free program that incorporates 12 educational sessions and a year long commitment to case management. The educational sessions are offered either twice a week for seven weeks or once a week for fourteen weeks. During the educational sessions participants have the opportunity to engage in interactive discussions designed to stimulate proactive thinking to avoid problems and encourage healthy behaviors. During the case management portion of the program students are encouraged to set short, medium and long term goals while maintaining healthy behaviors. Incentives are provided by MRP to encourage participation in the education sessions and case management.

MRP will begin groups at the Willkie House to meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-5:00 p.m. for seven weeks beginning September 14th and November 2nd. If you are interested in establishing an MRP group at your location, or would like to connect individuals to participate in the Willkie House groups. contact Lester Allen via e-mail lesallen@willkiehouse.org or telephone (515) 243-7817.

# Research Project for Pregnant Women Interested

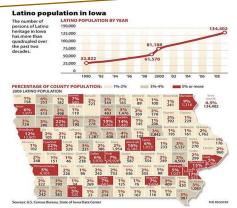
Essman/Research is reaching out to focus group participants and/or individuals who are interested in our research projects. Essman/ Research is conducting a study with pregnant women who live in or around the Des Moines metro area. The group discussion will be about children's healthcare products. If you know of any women who are pregnant and would be interested in participating in a focus group towards the end of September, please have them contact Carolyn at 515-282-7145 or toll-free 888-879-1883 ext 32. Qualified participants would receive \$150 for approximately two hours of their time.

This is strictly a marketing research project to gather opinions and perceptions. The identities of participants are confidential.

Thank you in advance for your support in helping us with this important research project.

# **Other Community Newsletters**

- Iowa Immigration Education Coalition
- Iowa Arts Council
- New Iowan Center



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